

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9 and 11 have been amended. Claims 2 and 7 have been canceled.

The drawings are objected to. Amended drawings of Figs. 7 and 8 have been submitted as requested by the examiner. In amended Figs. 7 and 8, the legend "Prior Art" has been added.

The title of the invention is objected to. A new title indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed has been submitted.

The disclosure is objected to because of informalities. The specification has been amended to correct the informalities as requested by the examiner.

The examiner has acknowledged that claim 3 is directed to allowable subject matter. Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form including the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, claim 3 is in condition for allowance. Claim 4 and 6 have been amended to depend only from claim 3. Therefore, claims 4-6 are also in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaguchi et al. (U.S. Pub. No. US 2002/0085858) in view of Kriegel (U.S. Patent No. 4,993,992). Claim 1 has been amended. For the following reasons the examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

None of the references disclose or suggest that "when the first gear portion and the second gear portion are in a same phase, only a leading end of said part of teeth that is longer than the other teeth from said first or second gear portion comes into contact with a leading end of a part of teeth from the remaining first or second gear portion" as recited in amended claim 1.

Kriegel is cited as disclosing a tooth of a gear portion different from axial lengths of other teeth. However, neither Kriegel nor Yamaguchi disclose or suggest that only the tooth that is longer than the other teeth of one gear portion comes into contact with a tooth from the other gear portion

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs. 7 and 8. This sheet, which includes Figs. 7 and 8, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 7 and 8. In Figs. 7 and 8, the legend "Prior Art" has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

when the first and second gear portions are in the same phase. Therefore, even if combined, the references do not disclose or suggest all the elements of the claimed invention.

Claim 2 and 4-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaguchi et al. (U.S. Pub. No. US 2002/0085858) in view of Kriegel (U.S. Patent No. 4,993,992). Claims 2 and 7 have been canceled. Claims 8, 9 and 11 have been amended.

None of the references disclose or suggest that "a spline on said photoconductor drum axially longer than other splines and a spline on said photoconductor drive axially longer than other splines" as recited in amended claim 8.

Kriegel is cited as disclosing a spine longer axially than other splines on the same axis. However, none of the references disclose or suggest a spline axially longer than other splines on the photoconductor drum and drive shaft. Therefore, even if combined, the references do not disclose or suggest all the elements of the claimed invention.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 35880.

Respectfully submitted,

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